

BEFORE THE POLICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

IN THE MATTER OF CHARGES FILED AGAINST )  
TRAINING OFFICER LINDA COHRAN, ) Case No. 02-2485  
EMPLOYEE #307849, CR #269215 )

**FINDINGS AND DECISION**

On January 4, 2002, the Superintendent of Police filed charges with the Police Board of the City of Chicago against Training Officer Linda Cohran, Employee #307849 (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Respondent"), for violating the following rules:

Rule 1: Violation of any law or ordinance.

Rule 2: Any action or conduct which impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department.

Rule 21: Failure to report promptly to the Department any information concerning any crime or other unlawful action.

The Police Board of the City of Chicago investigated these charges and caused a hearing on these charges against Training Officer Cohran, Employee #307849, to be had before Thomas E. Johnson, Hearing Officer of the Police Board of the City of Chicago, on May 6, 10, 14, and 21, 2002.

Following the hearing, the members of the Police Board read and reviewed the certified transcription of the proceedings of the hearing. Thomas E. Johnson, Hearing Officer, made an oral report and conferred with the Police Board before it rendered a decision.

The Police Board of the City of Chicago, as a result of its investigation of the charges, found and determined that:

1. The Respondent was at all times employed as a training officer by the Department of Police of the City of Chicago.

2. The charges were filed in writing and a Notice, stating the time, date and place, when and where a hearing of the charges was to be held, together with a copy of the original charges, was served upon the Respondent more than five (5) days prior to the hearing on the charges.

3. The hearing was conducted before Thomas E. Johnson, Hearing Officer of the Police Board of the City of Chicago, on May 6, 10, 14 and 21, 2002.

4. Throughout the hearing, Training Officer Linda Cohran, Employee #307849, was represented by counsel.

5. The Respondent Training Officer Linda Cohran, Employee #307849, charged herein, contrary to the Rules and Regulations, is **guilty** of violating to wit:

Rule 1: **Violation of any law or ordinance**, in that on or about February 5, 2001, at or near Menard's, located at 2601 N. Clybourn, Training Officer Linda Cohran, while off duty, committed the offense of retail theft, in that she took possession of merchandise that was displayed for sale in a retail mercantile establishment with the intention of retaining such merchandise or with the intention of depriving the merchant permanently of the possession, use or benefit of such merchandise without paying the full retail value of such merchandise, thereby violating Chapter 720 ILCS 5/16A-3(a).

Rule 2: Any action or conduct which impedes the Department's efforts to achieve its policy and goals or brings discredit upon the Department, in that:

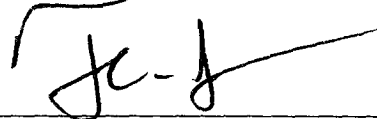
- A. On or about February 2001, at or near Menard's, located at 2601 N. Clybourn, Training Officer Linda Cohran, while off duty, took possession of merchandise that was displayed for sale in a retail mercantile establishment with the intention of retaining such merchandise or with the intention of depriving the merchant permanently of the possession, use or benefit of such merchandise without paying the full retail value of such merchandise.
- B. On or about February 2001, at or near Menard's, located at 2601 N. Clybourn, Training Officer Linda Cohran, while off duty, took possession of merchandise that was displayed for sale in a retail mercantile establishment with the intention of retaining such merchandise or with the intention of depriving the merchant permanently of the possession, use or benefit of such merchandise without paying the full retail value of such merchandise, for which she was subsequently arrested and charged, and then failed to promptly report this information to the Department.

Rule 21: Failure to report promptly to the Department any information concerning any crime or other unlawful action, in that on or about February 5, 2002, at or near Menard's, located at 2601 N. Clybourn, Training Officer Linda Cohran, while off duty, committed retail theft for which she was arrested and charged, and failed to notify the Department.

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Training Officer Linda Cohran  
Employee #307849

By reason of the findings of fact, the Respondent is **guilty** of violating Rules 1, 2, and 21.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEJ', is written over a horizontal line.

THOMAS E. JOHNSON  
Hearing Officer

D E C I S I O N

The members of the Police Board, having read and reviewed the certified copy of the transcription of the hearing, having received the oral report of the Hearing Officer, Thomas A. Johnson, and having conferred with the Hearing Officer on the credibility of the witnesses and the evidence, hereby adopt all findings herein and, in reaching its decision as to the penalty imposed, the Board has taken into account not only the facts of this case but also the respondent's complimentary and disciplinary history, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the respondent, Training Officer Linda Cohran, Employee No. 307849, as a result of having been found guilty of the charges in Police Board Case 02-2485, is hereby separated and discharged from her position as a Training Officer, and from the services of the City of Chicago.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 29<sup>th</sup>  
DAY OF August, 2002.

Hermite E. Cox  
James L. D.  
Victor Lopez  
Scott Davis  
Thomas J. Spillman

Muehle  
Executive Director, Police Board

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Training Officer Linda Cohran  
Employee No. 307849

D I S S E N T

The following members of the Police Board hereby dissent from the decision of the majority of the Board. While concurring in a finding of guilty, they support a lesser penalty.

Patricia Bobb  
William F. King  
J. L. Miller  
Robert D.

RECEIVED A COPY OF THE FOREGOING  
COMMUNICATION THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY  
OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2002

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE

Monday, July 23, 2001

INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
RECORDS SECTION

TO: COMMANDING OFFICER OF UNIT 121G

FROM: RECORDS SECTION  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

SUBJECT: PREVIOUS DISCIPLINARY RECORD OF:

COHRAN LINDA 307849 124  
NAME (LAST, FIRST, M.I.) STAR UNIT

F BLK  
SEX RACE S.S.N.

REFERENCE: COMPLAINT REGISTER NUMBER(S) 269215

THE PREVIOUS DISCIPLINARY RECORD OF THE SUBJECT ACCUSED HAS BEEN REQUESTED IN YOUR NAME BY:

SGT. ELLISON 2489  
RANK NAME STAR S.S.N. UNIT

RELATIVE TO A SUSTAINED FINDING IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ABOVE REFERENCED COMPLAINT REGISTER NUMBER.

THE RECORDS SECTION, INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION, DISCLOSES THE FOLLOWING DISCIPLINARY ACTION(S) ADMINISTERED TO THE SUBJECT ACCUSED, FOR THE PAST FIVE (5) YEARS.

SEE ATTACHED

VERIFIED/PREPARED BY:

NIYA SCOTT

FOR: COMMANDING OFFICER  
RECORDS SECTION  
INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

C.R. #

ATTACHMENT #

269215

28

AI72 PREVIOUS DISCIPLINARY ACTION SUMMARY FUNCTION  
NO MORE CLOSED - SUSTAINED CR'S (PAST 5 YEARS) OR SP'S (PAST 1 YEAR)  
SSN [REDACTED] NAME: LAST COHRAN FIRST LINDA MI STAR  
UNIT 124 EMP NO 307849 SEX F RACE N DOB 27 JUN 49 DATE APPTD 18 FEB 97  
RANK 1359 TRAINING OFFICER

INCIDENT DISCIPLINARY		DATES SUSPENDED OR WORKED		OPTN/TD
E NO	DATE	ACTION TAKEN	(FROM TO)	GRNT'D

C256790 14 SEP 99 SUSTAINED-NO PENALTY

F/CAT: OPERATION/PERSONNEL VIOLATION-VEHICLE LICENSING - CITY

LESS SER TRAN:

COMMENTS

STATUS CLO

F/CAT:

LESS SER TRAN:

COMMENTS

STATUS

F/CAT:

LESS SER TRAN:

COMMENTS

STATUS

ISSUED FOR USE IN GR # 269215 ONLY

C.R. # 269215  
ATTACHMENT # 29

7/23/01

**Chicago Police Department  
Personnel Division**

**COMPLIMENTARY HISTORY**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>Star</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Detail Unit</u>
COHRAN LINDA	1359			124	

DEPT. COMMENDATIONS

0

HONORABLE MENTIONS

0

COMPLIMENTARY LETTERS

1

AWARD NUMBER:

OTHER AWARDS:

**SPECIAL AWARDS:**

<u>Jr. Chamber . of Comm =</u>	0	<u>Honored Police Star =</u>	0
<u>Rich. J Daley Award =</u>	0	<u>Life Saving Awd=</u>	0
<u>Police Medal =</u>	0	<u>Hnd Cld Med. of Val =</u>	0
<u>Supt. Awd of Valor =</u>	0	<u>Fitness Award=</u>	0
<u>Supt. Awd of Merit =</u>	0	<u>Appearance Award =</u>	0
<u>Police Blue Star =</u>	0	<u>Special Commendation =</u>	0
<u>Officer of The Month =</u>	0	<u>Partnership Award =</u>	0
<u>Unit Meritorious =</u>	0	<u>Special Serv. Award =</u>	0
<u>Lambert Tree =</u>	0	<u>Problem Solving Awd=</u>	0
<u>Carter Harrison =</u>	0	<u>Blue Shield Awd =</u>	0
<u>WGN Award =</u>	0		

**Complimentary History Requested By:**

NAME: ELLISON JACQUELINE	TITLE SERGEANT	STAR: 02119	UNIT: 121
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CR#: 269215

**Completed by:**

Demetra Berry  
Personnel Division  
Records Section -2089-2092  
Pax 0-342 or Bell 5-5390

269215  
ATTACHMENT 29